

## **MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 24, 2003**

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission for Women was held on March 24, 2003 in Room 864, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, California.

At the request of President Jernigan, the Commission paused for a moment of silence in memory of Commissioner June Dunbar and the soldiers in Iraq.

President Jernigan called the meeting to order at 10:18 a.m., followed by introductions. The following Commissioners were present for the roll call, constituting a quorum:

President Jernigan  
Vice President Mariajimenez  
Treasurer Lesser  
Commissioner Cooperman  
Commissioner Creary  
Commissioner Duba  
Commissioner Morgan  
Commissioner Mummey  
Commissioner Rodriguez

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion of Commissioner Creary, seconded by Vice President Mariajimenez, and unanimously carried, the minutes of February 24, 2003 were approved with the following changes indicated in bold italics:

On Page 4, ~~Commissioner Rodriguez~~ ***Vice President Mariajimenez*** suggested arranging a conference call meeting with the Health Committee and the Legislative Committee to address health-focused issues.

On Page 5, under Community Outreach/Announcements, Commissioner Rodriguez apprised the commission of the February 21 meeting with ~~a woman from Mongolia~~ ***Ms. Narantsetseg Tserendogva, President of the Youth and Gender Center in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.***

(Commissioner Perkins joined the meeting.)

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Jernigan reported the following:

- She thanked Commissioners for attending June Dunbar's memorial service and thanked staff for designing the memorial poster in her honor.
- She reported that she attended the State Democratic Convention in Sacramento over the weekend.

- She gave Commissioners and staff daffodils from the American Cancer Society's "Daffodil Days – Gift of Hope Campaign 2003."

### **STAFF REPORT**

Jim Corbett, Executive Office, reported the following:

- At its March 4, 2003 meeting, on recommendation of Supervisor Yaroslavsky, the Board of Supervisors reappointed Roslyn Cooperman for a term of office expiring August 29, 2004.
- The Office of Public Safety advised that effective immediately, all drivers must stop and show a County ID in order to gain entrance into Auto Park 18. Also, left turns into and out of the parking garages and parking lots on Grand Avenue will be prohibited due to the Grand Avenue Realignment project.
- Commissioner Becerra-Jones will moderate a workshop entitled "Women in the Workforce" on March 26, 2003 at the Fifth Annual Multicultural Conference at the Wilshire Grand Hotel in Downtown.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer Lesser gave the Treasurer's Report and commented on expenditures for the month of March. She reported that the end balance for the month of March was \$32,392.34. The Commission received and filed the Treasurer's Report.

### **PRESENTATION ON CONDITIONS FOR HOMELESS WOMEN IN THE SKID ROW AREA OF DOWNTOWN LOS ANGELES**

Ruth Schwartz, Executive Director, The Shelter Partnership, and Lisa Watson, Downtown Women's Center, presented a Power Point presentation of a report entitled "Downtown Women's Needs Assessment." The report included the following:

- Volunteers surveyed women on Skid Row, and concluded there are a growing number of homeless single women.
- 59% of women have been homeless for one year or more in their lifetimes.
- 71% of women had been homeless during the past year.
- 60% of women had been victims of domestic violence, and 40% of the women had experienced domestic violence in the past year.
- 57% of women have lived on the street, encampments, missions, emergency shelters, and in transitional housing programs.
- 25% of women had been asked to perform sexual favors in exchange for shelter.
- More than half of the women had been victims of sexual assaults, and 31% had experienced sexual assaults within the past year.
- Each night, there are 2,000 homeless single women, but only 200 beds available per night.

- The ethnic breakdown is 62% African-American, followed by Anglo-white, and Latina, and Asian and Pacific Islander.
- 80% of the women suffer from mental illness, whether they identify it or not.
- Women with children are rare on the street, as shelters give priority to women with children.
- Emergency housing was ranked as the top priority among services needed in downtown, and the report recommends the need to improve existing housing services to better meet the specific needs of women.

After a question and answer period, President Jernigan thanked Ruth Schwartz and Lisa Watson for their presentation. She also requested that Commissioner Rodriguez be the liaison to The Shelter Partnership and the Downtown Women's Center.

**APPROVE EXPENSE FOR MAILING OUT 2000-2002 STATUS REPORT TO THE COMMISSION MAILING LIST**

On motion of Commissioner Mummey, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the mailing of the 2000-2002 Status Report to the Commission mailing list for a cost not to exceed \$500.

**APPROVE EXPENDITURE OF \$400 TO PURCHASE A TABLE AT THE 2003 SOUTH BAY WOMEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS**

On motion of Commissioner Rodriguez, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the expenditure of \$400 to purchase a table for 8 Commissioners to attend the South Bay Women of the Year Awards to honor Treasurer Lesser on April 4, 2003.

President Jernigan, Vice President Mariajimenez, and Commissioners Cooperman, Creary, Mummey, and Rodriguez expressed interest in attending.

**APPROVE EXPENDITURE OF \$500 TO SUPPORT THE OLDER WOMEN'S CONFERENCE IN THE FOURTH DISTRICT**

On motion of Commissioner Cooperman, seconded by Commissioner Morgan, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the expenditure of \$500 to support the Older Women's Conference in the Fourth District at Cerritos Park on July 26, 2003.

**APPROVE EXPENDITURE TO INCREASE CONTRIBUTION TO SUNSHINE MISSION/CASA DE ROSAS FROM \$100 TO \$200**

On motion of Vice President Mariajimenez, seconded by Commissioner Mummey, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the expenditure to increase the contribution of \$100 to \$200 to the Sunshine Mission/Casa De Rosas in memory of Commissioner June Dunbar.

### **PURCHASE TWO TICKETS FOR THE YWCA'S PASADENA-FOOTHILL VALLEY'S WOMEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS LUNCHEON**

On motion of Commissioner Perkins, seconded by Treasurer Lesser, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved the expenditure to purchase two tickets to the YWCA's Women of the Year Luncheon on March 28, 2003. Commissioners Duba and Perkins expressed interest in attending.

### **REPORT ON THE 18<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL WOMEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS LUNCHEON**

After congratulating and thanking the staff for an outstanding job, Vice President Mariajimenez reported the following:

- The total revenue generated was \$43,754.23.
- Expenditures were \$23,766.03.
- Upon receipt of three outstanding tickets, the net proceeds will be \$20,063.20.

President Jernigan and Commissioners thanked the Awards Luncheon Chair and Committee members, Commissioners, and staff for their hard work in putting the luncheon together.

Commissioner Mummey thanked Vice President Mariajimenez and President Jernigan for superbly representing the Commission at the luncheon.

Commissioner Creary asked the staff to distribute an Awards Luncheon evaluation form to the Commissioners.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **Health Committee**

Commissioner Creary reported the following:

- At its meeting today the Health Committee discussed the nursing shortage in L.A. County and reviewed the "White Paper on the Nursing Shortage."
- The biggest recommendation to ameliorate the nursing shortage is to review programs where there are two-year RN programs, and to come up with English as a Second Language training programs for registered nurses who do not speak English proficiently.
- She attended a breakfast meeting with Supervisor Burke; she reported that layoffs in Health Services will be offset by attrition; all closures to County health clinics will remain in effect; Martin Luther King/Drew Medical Center is required to reduce management by 16% to avoid a layoff of non-management staff; there will be no layoffs in the Office of Women's Health.

- The Domestic Violence subcommittee meetings will coincide with the Health Committee meetings and will meet bimonthly.
- She requested Commissioners to help promote the 2003 Revlon Run/Walk for Women to be held at the L.A. Memorial Coliseum/Exposition Park on May 10 by dropping off sign-up brochures at the offices of their respective Supervisors.
- She attended an American Black Cardiologists reception and shared with the Commission a book, A Minute for Your Health.

### **Legislative Committee**

Vice President Maria Jimenez reported that she met with Third District deputies regarding the lack of health standards in the porn industry. The deputies are looking into possible regulations at the state level to better manage this issue. She will update the Commission as information becomes available.

She will coordinate with Commissioner Becerra-Jones to set up a Legislative Committee meeting.

### **Media/Public Relations Committee**

Commissioner Morgan distributed a press release on the Awards Luncheon that was published in the Pasadena Star News. She also informed the Commission of the Sheriff's Department's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Job Fair, which will be held on June 13 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Whittier at the Sheriff's Training Academy. She will register an exhibitor's table for the Commission at the event. She also announced that the Media/Public Relations Committee will meet every 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month at 9 a.m. in Room 830.

### **Older Women's Issues Committee**

Commissioner Mummey reported that at its March 19 meeting the Older Women's Issues Committee discussed planning for the Older Women's Conference to be held in Cerritos on July 26. The Committee also discussed health, legal, and employment issues.

She informed Commissioners of a conference held in Beverly Hills, "When Does Abuse of Women Become a Hate Crime?" She informed the Commission that the Older Women's Committee will monitor this issue as it develops.

She updated the Commission on the court ruling that passed a year ago regarding breastfeeding in the workplace. The court concluded that a female employee is allowed to express her milk to a bottle and must be provided a place to express the milk.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Gladys Castro announced a Colon Cancer Awareness Health Fair on Sunday, April 6 at the Airport Endoscopy Center in Westchester.

Yvonne La Rose requested to address the Commission at a later date regarding at-risk girls.

### **COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Commissioner Perkins attended the Women of Los Angeles monthly meeting and the National Association of Women Business Owners Luncheon. At the Women's Town Hall of Los Angeles monthly meeting, the topic was "The Business and Politics of the Hip Hop Culture." She further announced that she and Commissioners Cooperman and Creary attended the Women in Film Power Breakfast on February 28.

Commissioner Creary passed out a postcard for the University of Southern California Black Alumni Association exhibit, "A Life in Politics: Yvonne Brathwaite Burke" featured at U.S.C.'s Doheny Library. The exhibit, which runs through March 31, includes newspaper articles, photographs, and Supervisor Burke's personal papers.

Commissioner Cooperman attended an interfaith women's health conference at the Queen of Angels Hospital; California Senator Sheila Kuehl's health conference concerning SB 921, a bill that would create a comprehensive health benefit package for all California residents; and the Board of Supervisors meeting where a report was given to the Supervisors in support of reforming the safety net for families who have reached the 5-year eligibility limit to receive TANF benefits.

Commissioner Rodriguez reported that domestic violence shelters in L.A. County have been named in a lawsuit for alleged gender discrimination for not providing domestic violence services and shelters for men. She also requested a discussion at a future meeting on appointing a Commissioner to be the liaison to the Domestic Violence Council.

### **MATTERS NOT ON THE POSTED AGENDA**

Commissioner Duba reported that the 5K Committee will meet today to begin planning for the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual 5K Run/Walk at 12:30 p.m. in Room 864.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Commission adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

## **ATTENDANCE**

### **COMMISSIONERS**

Ruth Jernigan, President  
Yvonne Maria Jimenez, Esq., Vice President  
Charlotte Lesser, Treasurer  
Roslyn Cooperman  
Ruth Creary, Ph.D.  
Reiko Duba  
Lila Morgan  
Janet Mummey, Esq.  
Barbara Perkins  
Olivia Rodriguez

### **EXCUSED**

Yolanda Becerra-Jones  
Susan Carpenter McMillan

### **UNEXCUSED**

Sophia Esparza  
Brenda C. Smith, M.D.

### **COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES**

Khanh Nguyen, Executive Office  
Jim Corbett, Executive Office  
Cheryl Diaz, Executive Office  
Twila Kerr, Executive Office  
Steve Erickson, Executive Office

### **GUESTS**

Gladys Castro, Integrative Medical Marketing  
Genevieve Clavreul  
Yvonne La Rose, Executive Recruiting Entrance  
Ruth Schwartz, The Shelter Partnership  
Lisa Watson, Downtown Women's Center  
Michael Sandler, The Shelter Partnership